

# Tip of the Sword

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Proudly serving the Incirlik Air Base community

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Tech. Sgt. Dennis Brewer

**Maj. Carla Lee, 39th Medical Group physician, examines stitches on Master Sgt. Derek Brown, 39th Maintenance Squadron.**

## Team rates 39th MDG in top 3

**By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Tredway**  
*39th Wing Public Affairs*

A team of U.S. Forces in Europe and Air Force experts cited the 39th Medical Group's Primary Care Manager Program as the best they've seen to date after a recent primary care optimization inspection.

It's too early to say Incirlik's PCM Program is the best because the team still has other bases to visit, but Lt. Col. Jayne Stetto from the USAFE Surgeon General's Office did confirm that it's in the top three in the Air Force.

That means Incirlik's patients are receiving outstanding care in a safe environment and according to data collected from customer satisfaction surveys, they agree.

"The 39th MDG has the highest customer satisfaction rate in the Air Force," said Maj. Martha Johnston, 39th MDG nurse. "We exceeded our highest expectations. The team was very impressed."

In fact, the team singled out the 39th MDG's

disease management program, continuity of care and NCO leadership as well above the average, nearing an Air Force benchmark.

Additionally, Incirlik's preventative healthcare assessment and childhood immunization rates are rated number one in the Air Force.

During the inspection, evaluators scrutinized Incirlik's doctor's offices, or PCMs, to see how they compared to the industry standard.

To do this, they looked at seven areas – medical inprocessing, proactive preventative services, personal individual medical readiness, PCM assignments and notification, coding, PCM team function, leadership support and customer satisfaction.

The PCM assignments and notification inspection looked to see if the 39th MDG had a process to let people know when their care manager changes.

Inspectors also checked to see if medical

**See Hospital, Page 8**

## Action Line

The action line is your direct link to me. I use the action line to help identify and address your concerns when normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve them. I urge you to give your supervisors and unit commanders an opportunity to resolve the problem first.

If they are unable to provide satisfaction, contact me through the action line. I will ensure each submission is looked into and that a reply is given by me.

To submit an action line, call 6-6141 or e-mail [action.line@incirlik.af.mil](mailto:action.line@incirlik.af.mil).



Colonel Felman

## Crowded bike paths

**Concern:** Every day I ride to work on my bicycle. I attempt to ride on the bicycle paths provided, but especially

during the morning rush to and from work, they are always so full of pedestrians that there is no room for my bike.

I've stopped on several occasions to explain to people that they should use the sidewalks, which are always next to the bike paths or just across the street. Sometimes this has led to rude behavior from pedestrians, to the point that I had to go to a person's first sergeant once.

My key point is that I don't understand why pedestrians don't just use the sidewalks like they are supposed to. The bike paths are clearly marked as such. Is there a way to get an awareness campaign or something out on base that pedestrians should use the sidewalks and not the bike paths?

**Response:** Although there is no base prohibition against pedestrians using the bicycle paths, their use by pedestrians does present safety issues and defeats the purpose of building them in the first place if

cyclists can't manage to ride on them.

I urge people to use the sidewalks for pedestrians and to limit the bicycle paths to traffic of the two-wheeled kind. I will have public affairs work with our American Forces Network detachment to help raise the awareness of the community on this issue.

This is also a two-way street, so to speak. Riders should be sure to observe proper traffic rules at all times to make sure they are riding safely at Incirlik.

As for the rude behavior you encountered, we as a community should not tolerate discourtesy in any form. You were quite right to address this issue with the offending individual's leadership and I urge everyone to follow your example if they cannot resolve courtesy issues at the person-to-person level.

We have a terrific community here, with outstanding members, and I would not like to see this atmosphere ruined by a few rude individuals.

# Secretary Roche approves creation of AF Campaign Medal

By Dr. James Roche

Secretary of the Air Force

Award of campaign medals to specially recognize service members and units who fight our wars is a long-standing U.S. military tradition. Department of Defense criteria for such awards have historically been centered on geography to define the area of combat operations.

In light of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force environment and the transformation in the way the Air Force

carries out its missions today, such criteria do not allow the necessary flexibility to appropriately recognize our members who contribute directly and significantly to the success of wartime campaigns from outside the conflict area of combat operations.

As such, I have approved the creation of an Air Force Campaign Medal. This new medal will be awarded to U.S. Air Force personnel who are not eligible for a DOD Campaign Medal, but provide direct support of combat operations from outside the geographic area of combat.

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**Best Small Funded Newspaper  
in USAFE for 2000**

## Tip of the Sword

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Copy should be typed, double spaced and provided on disk or e-mail. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all submitted material to ensure it complies with Air Force policy and Associated Press journalistic standards.

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# ODC enforces PCS, TDY mailing policy

By Tech. Sgt. Tammy Brubaker  
39th Wing Public Affairs

When Incirlik military members are preparing for a permanent change of station or temporary duty assignment, they can no longer use the military postal service to ship personal effects for free unless shipping uniforms and personal gear required to perform official duties at their next duty station.

Incirlik's postal patrons have been lucky until now because the Official Document Center just recently began to enforce this policy, even though it became effective in February.

The MPS is an extension of the U.S. Postal Service that provides Department of Defense employees, their family members and other authorized users mail services around the world. This is done through partnerships between the Postal Service and several military agencies.

Before the policy took effect, people could ship household goods and hold baggage to their next duty station and ship belongings to and from TDY locations free of charge. This is no longer the case.

"Now, you can send boxes, but you have to pay for it and the traffic management office can help arrange for reimbursement," said Master Sgt. Madea Yagmur, 39th Communications Squadron ODC postal operations chief.

People can ship their personal property through the Postal Service, and once travel is completed, take the shipping receipt to TMO to receive a reimbursement approval letter.



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Tredway

**Staff Sgt. Kellie Dumire, 39th Communications Squadron Official Document Center postal clerk, sorts mail for distribution. The ODC recently began enforcing a Department of Defense policy that prohibits people from mailing personal items for free when moving.**

Receipts must include the total cost and weight amounts.

Then the approval letter, receipts and PCS orders can be filed with the finance office for reimbursement. Insurance costs are not reimbursable.

People can still use MPS to ship personal items for free as long as it is not associated with a move or TDY.

For more information about MPS shipments, call the ODC at 6-6301.

## AF enhances warfighting capabilities, restructures wings

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott  
Air Force Print News

The way Air Force wings are organized will undergo major changes beginning Oct. 1. Those changes include creation of a new maintenance group, restructuring support groups and reducing the taskings of operations groups.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper directed Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard wings to adopt the wing structure to enhance the service's warfighting capabilities.

"After careful deliberations with major command commanders, we reached a decision on a new wing organizational structure that standardizes operations across the Air Force and enhances our expeditionary capabilities," he said.

The five major changes are:

□ Aircraft and space maintenance

specialists assigned to operations and logistics groups will be reassigned to a newly-created maintenance group.

□ Supply and transportation squadrons will be combined to form logistics readiness squadrons.

□ Contracting squadrons, aerial ports and logistics readiness squadrons will transfer into existing support groups, which will be renamed "mission support group."

□ Logistics plans functions will transfer to the newly-created logistics readiness squadrons.

□ The logistics readiness officer career field initiative, which combines the supply, transportation and logistics plans officer career fields.

"My vision is that the groups in our wings will focus on their essential core capabilities," Gen. Jumper said.

"Operation of air and space weapons systems is a core competency of the U.S.

Air Force," he said. "Operations group activities focus on planning and executing air and space power. Commanders of operations groups are charged with leading their units in combat.

"They will continue to be considered leaders and role models in the tactical employment of their weapons systems," he said. "The Air Force has also recognized the emerging necessity to more closely integrate tactical skills with execution at the operational level of war. Commanders of operations groups will be increasingly involved in planning and training for the operational level of war.

"Maintenance of air and space weapons systems is (also) a core competency of the U.S. Air Force," General Jumper said. "Aging fleets and years of resource shortfalls require increased attention to the balance of sortie production and

**See Restructuring, Page 7**

## USAFE exceeds assistance fund goal

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)** — U.S. Air Forces in Europe exceeded its monetary goal by 33 percent for the command 2002 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

"It's wonderful that even though the Air Force increased the goal by almost \$100,000 from last year, our USAFE personnel stepped up to the challenge and far exceeded that goal," said Ms. Naomi Roupe, the operations project officer for the 2002 AFAF Campaign.

According to Ms. Roupe, whose office manages the campaign for USAFE, the goal for 2002 was \$397,000. The command raised more than \$528,000.

To achieve this, every USAFE installation exceeded its specific installation goal. Roupe attributes the increase to the installation project officers, the unit key workers and all the people who believe in and contribute to the AFAF.

"Commitment to Caring" is the campaign's permanent theme

Air Force-wide, AFAF ran from Feb. 25 to Apr. 12.

The annual AFAF campaign supports four charitable, service-oriented organizations that benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force members and their families, including surviving spouses and families: the Air Force Aid Society (Air Force's official charity); the Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation Inc.; the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund; and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

General Martin, USAFE commander, applauded the generosity of USAFE contributors and expressed his gratitude saying it was a "truly magnificent effort and very gratifying to see the sense of support our people provided for this very important cause."

The Air Force goal for this year's campaign is \$4.6 million. Last year's contributions totaled more than \$4.5 million.

## OSS emphasizes flightline driving responsibilities

**By Tech. Sgt. Scott Cross**

*39th Operations Support Squadron*

While motor vehicle runway crossings are necessary for aircraft maintenance and ground support, they also pose a danger to personnel and property.

Flightline drivers must be aware of the procedures and responsibilities for operating vehicles on the flightline. There are driving protocols that people must observe to protect lives and base resources.

Carelessness, inattention and haste by vehicle operators are the primary causes of aircraft damage, runway intrusions and other vehicular violations.

Unfamiliarity with the airfield and disregarding procedures also contribute to runway and taxiway violations.

Following are flightline driving tips:

☐ Stay aware and alert of operational surroundings.

☐ Driving on the flightline is for official business only.

☐ Never enter or cross an active runway without radio permission from the control tower.

☐ Observe and obey the hold short lines — one solid, one dashed — painted on taxiways at least 100 feet from the edge of the runway. Do not proceed beyond this point without tower approval.

☐ Look before crossing taxiways, ramps or maintenance pad entrances and exits.



Staff Sgt. Scottie McCord

**Crossing the short hold line is considered a runway intrusion and can result in a revocation of flightline driving privileges.**

☐ Always give the right of way to aircraft, whether taxiing or being towed

☐ Stay within the marked vehicle lanes except to give way to emergency vehicles or large aircraft wing tips.

☐ Know the speed limits. Speed limits on airfields are routinely lower than normal base operating speeds because of the potential for mishaps.

☐ Check for foreign object debris. Ensure everything in and on the vehicle is secure and nothing will fall out

and damage aircraft.

Base operations and control tower personnel and the 39th Operations Group commander take airfield-driving violations seriously. Depending on the nature of the offense, permanent revocation of flightline driving privileges may be warranted. Usually, airfield intrusions result in a 30-day suspension of flightline driving privileges.

For more information, call base operations at 6-6156.



Tech. Sgt. Tammy Brubaker

The Air Force Sergeants Association Division 16 recently selected Senior Airman Shane Parrish, from the 39th Supply Squadron, to represent U.S. Air Forces in Europe at the international competition.

## Airman earns AFSA award

By Senior Airman Kenya Shiloh  
39th Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Sergeants Association recently selected an Incirlik airman to represent U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Division 16, at international competition in Jacksonville, Fla.

Senior Airman Shane Parrish, 39th Supply Squadron after-hours journeyman, was nominated by Incirlik AFSA Chapter 1660 representatives to compete for USAFE-level competition before proceeding to international level.

Senior Airman Parrish competed against other first term airmen with one to six years Air Force experience who excel in their jobs, volunteer in their communities and participate in AFSA events.

"Senior Airman Parrish was selected for his proven leadership and performance in his duties, his dedication to higher education and his commitment to the Incirlik community by serving on the base Honor Guard team, as the president and founder of Airmen Committed to Excellence Chapter, and most importantly his contributions to the AFSA Chapter," said Master Sgt. Cristi Warren, AFSA Chapter 1660 president.

Senior Airman Parrish furthered his

military training by attending and completing an Air Force training course to become an after hours trainer for his squadron as well as attending and completing hazardous material and integrated logistics supply system training.

During his off-duty time, he led the Sept. 11 Red Cross Disaster Relief campaign, actively participated in the 39th Supply Squadron mentorship program and acted as a big brother tutor for junior high school students.

He also supported a sock and T-shirt drive to donate to troops "down range," coordinated the elementary school field day and chaperoned events for Incirlik High School's 10th grade class.

When not volunteering, Senior Airman Parrish is active in the base sports program as the 39th SUPS women's softball coach. He also participated in football, softball and the Incirlik sports council.

At the international convention Aug. 10 through 14, Senior Airman Parrish meets with other command-selected airmen to review legislative issues as well as cast votes for new international officers and legislative items to be brought before Congress.

## Briefs

### Policy letter No. 35

Policy letter No. 35 refers to quiet hours. Personnel will make every effort to take into consideration the status of all neighbors, regardless if they are adjacent to, above or below, your place of residence. The wing's quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 11 p.m. to 9 a.m. on weekends, holidays and down days.

For more information on this and other wing policies, visit *The Source*.

### Commissary closure

The Incirlik Commissary closes May 19 in honor of the local youth day holiday. The commissary will be open May 20 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. instead.

### Defense Service Medal

The deputy secretary of defense recently authorized the award of the National Defense Service Medal to U.S. armed forces members serving on active duty on or after Sept. 11. People who are already authorized to wear the medal put a bronze star on it to denote the subsequent award.

### AETC aid opening

The Air Force Senior Leader Management Office needs an enlisted aid for the Air Education and Training Command vice commander at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Volunteers must be in the rank of senior airman or above. Applications must be submitted by Thursday. For more information, call 6-3280.

### Promotion Fact Sheets

Enlisted Promotion Program fact sheets keep members informed on their eligibility for Weighted Airman Promotion System testing and ensure people can correct data missing from their data verification rip. For more information or to review an NCO Promotion Fact Sheet, access Air Force Personnel Center web page at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom) or contact unit orderly rooms.



# Thousands sign up for Thrift Savings Program

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

The first open season for service members to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan was a huge success, Defense officials said.

The open season ran from Nov. 15 through Jan. 31, and more than 220,000 active and reserve component service members enrolled in the program. The next open season is May 15 through July 31.

"We thought maybe 10 percent of the active component would sign up in the first year — we had more than 10 percent sign up in just the first open season," said Army Lt. Col. Thomas Emswiler, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

Lt. Col. Emswiler said officers and mid-to upper-level enlisted grades in particular signed up. "I'd like to see more junior members consider using the program," he said. "When you're young, start putting away \$100 a month into the Thrift Savings Plan and it really can add up quite quickly."

He said he is particularly pleased with the response because TSP for military is a new program and the services are really just getting into their education programs online.

Lt. Col. Emswiler said all service members should have received a pamphlet en-

titled "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services." Those who did not receive it or lost it can go to the TSP Web site <<http://www.tsp.gov>>. The plan summary is on the site as well as frequently asked questions, forms, savings calculators and records of fund earnings.

He suggested service members speak to civilian employees about the program. "The civilian component has been participating in TSP for quite some time," he said. "(Service members) should talk to the civilian employees they work with and see what their experience has been with TSP. I think most people will conclude it's a very good option."

The TSP for military program works like this: Service members can contribute from 1 percent to 7 percent of basic pay and from 1 percent to 100 percent of any special, incentive or bonus pays. TSP has five funds with different investment goals and varying rates of return. Service members can place their money in any or all the funds they wish. There is an \$11,000 limit for contributions this year.

Lt. Col. Emswiler said the TSP is a way to save and invest money on a tax-deferred basis. That is, contributions and earnings are not reported as income until they're withdrawn from the plan. TSP is a

government-run plan that has historically had good rates of return at a very low administrative cost.

"But every member has to decide for him or herself whether thrift savings or any other investment vehicle is the right option," he said.

The TSP funds are government securities G Fund; Standard and Poor's 500 common stock index C Fund; government and corporate bond index F Fund; international stock index I Fund; and Wilshire 4500 "small business" stock index S Fund. The government only guarantees G Fund accounts; all others are subject to market forces.

Military and civilian personnel who had traditional individual retirement accounts or employers' 401k accounts before they joined the federal service can maintain them if they want, "but you can transfer the accounts into the Thrift Savings Plan and then have just one account to manage," Lt. Col. Emswiler said. This change took effect July 1, 2001.

He called TSP a "portable" savings program. "Even if you don't stay in the military for a career, your TSP account belongs to you," he said. "And if you do stay in the military for a career, then you'll have even more savings available for your retirement."

## Warrior of the Week



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Brewer

**Tech. Sgt. Isaura Walker, 39th Dental Flight support element NCO in charge, schedules an appointment for Master Sgt. Robert Daniels, 39th Supply Squadron.**

**Name:** Tech. Sgt. Isaura Walker

**Duty title:** Dental flight support element NCO in charge

**Time in service:** 15 years

**Home town:** Providence, R.I.

**Time on station:** 22 months

**Hobbies:** reading, running and racquetball

**What do you like most about Incirlik?** The cultural diversities and the opportunity I've had to grow

**How do you contribute to the wing's mission?** We ensure the dental readiness of our members and their families

**What Air Force core value best describes you and why?**

Integrity first — integrity is the touchstone for all the other core values, without it the others would fail.

**Supervisor's quote:** "Tech. Sgt. Walker is the primary reason our support operations run as smoothly as they do," said Master Sgt. Mary Hagan, 39th Dental Flight NCO in charge. "She is a consummate professional and keeps things running to peak performance."

# Life skills uses week to raise suicide awareness

By Senior Airman Kenya Shiloh

39th Wing Public Affairs

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death for Air Force members, and May 5 to 11 has been set aside as the national awareness week.

"Although the week is nearly over it's important that all of the Incirlik community is aware that suicide prevention is a 365-day long awareness campaign," said Tech. Sgt. Conrad Stott, assistant NCOIC of the 39th Medical Group's Life Skills Support Center.

But "when" a suicide occurs is not the only misconception.

"Another misconception about suicide is that it occurs with little or no warning," Maj. Peggy Vaughn 39th MDG Life Skills chief said. "When in fact, there are often many clues that someone may be in distress or at risk."

Clues include withdrawing from friends and family, making amends with others, sudden changes in behavior, loss of interest in work or usual activities and giving away possessions.

Maj. Vaughn said the most commonly associated risk factor with suicide in the Air Force is marital or dating problems. Other risk factors include alcohol or substance abuse, financial or legal problems, loneliness, prolonged unmanageable stress and feelings of depression or worthlessness.

"Some people think if they talk about suicide with someone, it

## Mental Health Awareness Month

May has been designated as National Mental Health Month and according to the national Mental Health Association, physicians use the month to educate the American community on the importance of good mental health.

During this month, the life skills center will submit stories to the base newspaper and offer literature on suicide prevention, depression and child abuse awareness at the Cross Roads Cafe where they will be volunteering at the end of this month.

will give that person the idea to harm themselves," Maj. Vaughn said. "Or if someone decided to harm him or herself, there is nothing we can do to change their mind. These are myths and create barriers to suicide prevention. Talking with someone about suicide is one of the most helpful things a person can do."

Organizations such as life skills, chaplain services, family advocacy and the family support center also offer assistance in dealing with suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

"We will see anyone for treatment," Maj. Vaughn said. "You don't need a referral, just call us and make an appointment."

## Construction Corner

Base chapel



Airman 1st Class Veronica Fullwood

**Construction crews began renovation of the base chapel in August 2000 to repair earthquake damage. The project includes knocking down walls to enlarge the sanctuary and relocating the chapel offices from the side of the building to the back. The project should be completed in August.**

## Restructuring

Continued from Page 3

health of our fleets. This requires career maintenance professionals able to develop the same level of skill and proficiency demanded of our operations, logistics and medical professionals.

"Mission support, in the expeditionary, rapid reaction, contingency-based Air Force of today is (another) core competency," he said. "The Air Force will develop a career path for commanders who understand the full scope of home station employment and sustainment, and deployment, beddown and sustainment at contingency locations: crisis actions, force protection, unit type code preparation, load planning, contracting actions, bare base and tent city preparation, munitions site planning, personnel readiness expeditionary combat support, etc."

"I fully understand the magnitude of these changes," he said. "The goal is to achieve a more capable Air Force with professionals who understand and are capable of meeting our ever-increasing complex mission."

# Incirlik chef sharpens culinary skills

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed

USAFE News Service

**SEMBACHAIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)**—Becoming a chef requires more than just following recipes. It means understanding food trends, knowing basic cooking techniques, manipulating the tools of the trade, and experimenting with both classic and contemporary flavors.

Kisal Burhan, a 39th Services Squadron Sultan's Inn Dining Facility chef, was one of a 11 U.S. Air Forces in Europe chefs selected to attend a recent culinary arts training course at Sembach Air Base, Germany.

This extensive six-day training program, featured two days of classroom training and four days of hands-on culinary training. The instruction focused on birthday meals, ethnic food specials, buffet meal planning, holiday food and baking.

"It was a very good opportunity to go," said Mr. Burhan. "We have a new food preparation planning system which is based around new weights and measuring techniques designed to keep food preparation times and amounts to a minimum so there is very little waste."

To master these essential skills, Mr. Burhan and other aspiring Air Force chefs turned to Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe Services Command Chef, Jean Marc Laurent, Jacob Fromming, USAFE chef trainer, and USAFE Food Services staff members, Senior Master Sgt. Jim Gill and Tech. Sgt. Vatema Ivy, as they mentor chefs in the "USAFE Advanced Culinary Training Course."

Mr. Laurent is the only chef assigned to a major command; he keeps a watchful eye and issues advice at each station in the busy kitchen. "I really enjoy teaching these courses and being able to travel throughout the command instilling confidence with "hands on" cooking. Most of all I love to motivate budding chefs."

Normally taught in Sembach's food laboratory, April 18's menu was prepared in Sembach's Combined Club. This allowed the students to get immediate feedback from dining patrons.



**The skillful eye of U.S. Air Forces in Europe Services Master Chef Jean Marc Laurent watches as Kisial Burhan, 39th Services Squadron Sultan's Inn Dining Facility chef, finalizes a pineapple upside down cake at a six-day advanced culinary school at Sembach Air Base, Germany.**

"People really liked the new menu," Mr. Burhan said. "They especially enjoyed the broccoli stir-fry. In fact, they asked me to prepare it six times during that one week."

The new menu and food preparation system is coming to a Sultan's Inn dining table sometime from mid to late June, but there's no exact date yet.

"I'm ready to prepare the recipes for our 2,000 dining facility patrons, I've prepared during this experience. I have learned our menus can be traditional without being predictable, with new twists that make them more memorable," he said.

USAFE's 25 dining facilities are striving to improve the variety, quality and presentation of meals served to Armed Forces troops, according to Senior Master Sgt. Gill. After this course, these chefs can view themselves as artists, blending ordinary ingredients to create culinary masterpieces.

## Hospital

*Continued from Page 1*

technicians knew how to access, input information and use the advanced functions of the personal individual medical readiness database.

The database helps medical personnel keep active duty troops up-to-date on their medical readiness requirements by tracking when people need to make appointments.

Additionally, inspectors interviewed physicians, nurses, medical technicians and administrative troops to see if 39th MDG personnel had well-defined roles, knew their function and had training and process improvement programs in place during the PCM team function evaluation.

During the customer satisfaction portion of the inspection, evaluators polled random patients to see if they knew who

their primary care manager was, if they saw that person at least 70 percent of the time they scheduled an appointment and to determine their overall satisfaction with access to and quality of care.

"Patient satisfaction is not a secret anymore," said Maj. Johnston, "anyone can go out on the Web and see how well your medical organization is doing and how it rates against the rest of the Air Force."



## 2-man team helps keep base supplied

Transportation element performs giant task of keeping Incirlik cargo on schedule, on target

Story and photos by  
**Tech. Sgt. Tammy Brubaker**  
*39th Wing Public Affairs*

Most may not have heard about the 39th Transportation Squadron's Airlift Clearance Authority element, but nearly every person who comes to Incirlik is touched by this small, two-person section in some way or another.

"We provide a service to everybody and anybody that has shipments coming into the base," said Tech. Sgt. John Mertens, ACA superintendent. "Also, any cargo that ships from Incirlik comes through this office."

Even though it's small and has only two people assigned, the ACA has a hand in all Incirlik shipments. Whether it's household goods, supplies, medical supplies and equipment or aircraft parts, the element tracks the status and ensures parts and supplies arrive on time and in one piece.



**Staff Sgt. Jason Schrieffer removes the paperwork from a box delivered to the ACA element.**



**Tech. Sgt. John Mertens (right), 39th Transportation Squadron Airlift Clearance Authority superintendent and Staff Sgt. Jason Schrieffer, ACA NCO in charge inspect a parcel for proper paperwork and clearance. If the paperwork to a shipment is not correct, it could cause the delivery to become "frustrated," or stalled, at one location until the problems with the paperwork are resolved.**

"If there's a problem with cargo along the way, it's not going to make it here until it gets fixed," Tech. Sgt. Mertens said. "Without us here to help, people would have no idea where their shipments are or what the status is. It's a lot of responsibility, but we invite the challenge and get a lot of satisfaction providing customers a service and getting them what they need."

Tech. Sgt. Mertens recalls a time when a shipment due to arrive at Incirlik from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, ended up in Norfolk, Va.

"How that happened - I have no idea," he said. "But it would have just stayed in Norfolk if we didn't get involved."

One of the most important aspects of the ACA is the fact that it has a hand in the success of the Operation Northern Watch and Enduring Freedom missions by helping to supply what's needed, when it's needed.

"Our mission is important because we track the most important part - aircraft parts to keep the planes flying," Tech. Sgt. Mertens said. "Aircraft won't work if their parts don't arrive in a timely manner."

ACA also supports another very important mission - helping keep troops deployed downrange supplied with food, water, supplies, donated and other items.

"We track about four shipments a week for the troops," said Staff Sgt. Jason Schrieffer, ACA NCO in charge. "That equates to about 40 pallets of supplies a week."

The ACA is always there and provides up-to-the-minute shipment information anytime it's needed.

"We're not open 24 hours, but we provide 24-hour support," Tech. Sgt. Mertens said. "We are always on call and will come in anytime to help."

For more information or to check on the status of a shipment, call the ACA at 6-3501 or 6-3207.

## ***Military taxpayers can avoid charges***

**By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker**

*Air Force Print News*

Air Force people can avoid the stress of dealing with late fees and penalties by knowing the rules governing military taxpayers and their rights as members of the armed forces, according to Internal Revenue Service officials.

Every taxpayer, civilian or military, should know the normal deadline for filing their tax return is April 15, said Don Roberts, IRS spokesman. However, many do not know payment for any taxes they owe is also due by the same deadline.

"Anyone who did not file their return and pay their taxes by April 15 will be charged interest on the unpaid tax and receive a failure-to-pay penalty," said Capt. Jennifer Hyzer, chief of the taxation law branch at the Air Force Legal Services Agency. "In addition, the IRS can also impose a failure-to-file penalty."

If a taxpayer has not filed his or her return yet and did not request an extension before April 15, the taxpayer should file immediately, said Hyzer.

"An automatic four-month extension to file a return is available, but only if requested before the April deadline," Capt. Hyzer said. "This automatic extension only applies to filing a return and not to paying any due taxes."

The financial burden of not paying taxes on time can increase quickly, she said.

The interest on the overdue tax is compounded daily and computed from the due date of the return until the payment is made. The interest, adjusted quarterly, is currently at six percent. The combined penalties, both failure to file and failure to pay, is 5 percent for each month or partial month that a return is late, up to 25 percent.

Air Force people stationed or deployed overseas on April 15 have an automatic extension until June 15 to file their taxes but still must pay any due tax or be charged interest on the amount not paid by April 15.

To take advantage of this, military taxpayers must attach a statement to their return showing they satisfy the extension requirements.

"However, the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes and filing claims for refund is automatically extended if you serve in the armed forces in a combat zone, qualifying hazardous duty area or have qualifying service outside of a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area," Mr. Roberts said.

"Additionally, the deadline extension provisions also apply to certain civilians serving in a combat zone or a qualified hazardous duty area in support of the U.S. armed forces, such as Red Cross personnel, accredited correspondents, and civilian personnel acting under the direction of the U.S. armed forces in support of those forces," he said.

"The deadline for these people to file or pay taxes is



Airman 1st Class Tanya Harms

**Shifting through piles of papers and receipts during tax time can be stressful, however knowing taxpayer rules ahead of time can make filing a whole lot easier.**

extended for 180 days after the last day they left the combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area or had qualifying service outside of these areas, plus the number of days that were left in the filing season when they entered these areas," Capt. Hyzer said.

"For example, you had three and one-half months — Jan. 1 to April 15 — to file your 2001 tax return," Mr. Roberts explained. "Any days of this period that were left when you entered the combat zone are added to the 180 days when determining the last day allowed for filing your return."

When President Bush declared Afghanistan and its airspace to be a combat zone, military people serving in Afghanistan automatically qualified for this extension, he said.

Currently, service outside of Afghanistan is considered to be in the combat zone if it is in a country where the Department of Defense has certified that such service is in direct support of military operations. To date, the DOD has certified that service in Jordan, Pakistan and Tajikistan, on or after Sept. 19, 2001, and service in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, on or after Oct. 1, 2001, qualifies.

"Any military taxpayers who are covered by these relief provisions should put the words 'Enduring Freedom' in red at the top of their tax return," Mr. Roberts said. "If they receive a notice from the IRS regarding a collection or examination matter, they should return the notice to the IRS, with the words 'Enduring Freedom' at the top of the notice and envelope, so that the IRS can suspend the action."

"If any Air Force (people are) unsure whether they qualify for an exemption or extension or have any other tax-related questions, they should go to their local legal office for assistance," Capt. Hyzer said. "We can help people find the answers they need and eliminate an unnecessary source of stress for our deployed airmen."

## ROAD TRIP! *Incirlik 2nd graders hit the road on a field trip to take in Tarsus sites, culture*

**Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Tammy Brubaker**  
*39th Wing Public Affairs*

To add excitement to the day in, day out routine of the normal classroom studies, two second-grade classes and their teachers ended last week by hitting the road on a field trip to Tarsus, the birthplace of St. Paul.

This was one of few off-base field trips children get to experience during the school year and teachers said it's the best way for children to learn first-hand about Turkish history and culture.

"There's only so much teaching you can do out of books," said Linda Hogan, Incirlik Elementary School second grade teacher, who has been teaching at the school for 15 years. "The children can't experience culture in the classroom. I could have showed them slides or a film, but they wouldn't have remembered. They will remember this."

The trip started out when 33 second graders and 18 adult chaperones took a bus ride to the Adana train station. From there, they loaded up for a 30-minute locomotive jaunt to Tarsus,



**Incirlik second graders and their parent volunteer escorts view the Roman Road in Tarsus. The 2,000 plus year-old road was discovered accidentally about 10 years ago during construction of a new sewer system.**

which Ms. Hogan said, is normally the children's favorite part.

"We took the train because this is probably the only time kids can experience riding a Turkish train," she added.

"The train ride was the best part," said Abigail Simons, 8. "I got to look out the windows at all the new, cool sights."

When the train arrived at the 2,000-year-old city, the children loaded back onto a waiting bus and headed to Seven Sleepers' Cave. It's said seven brothers slept in the cave for more than 300 years.

According to legend, when the brothers woke, they realized they had been asleep for hundreds of years when they tried to spend the money in their pockets, which was now antique, to purchase goods in the city.

Locals believe there's religious significance to the cave and many people go there to pray. People grasp at the dripping water coming through the stone overhead and rub it over their bodies and on their children because they believe it has healing powers.

After the cave, the children viewed Cleopatra's Gate, which according to local legend is the remnants of a stone gate which Mark Anthony and

Cleopatra passed when meeting in Tarsus more than 2,000 years ago.

The Children also saw several hundred feet of old Roman Road made of ancient, large stones with pillars lining it. The remnants were accidentally uncovered about 20 feet under natural-ground elevation during construction of a sewer system.

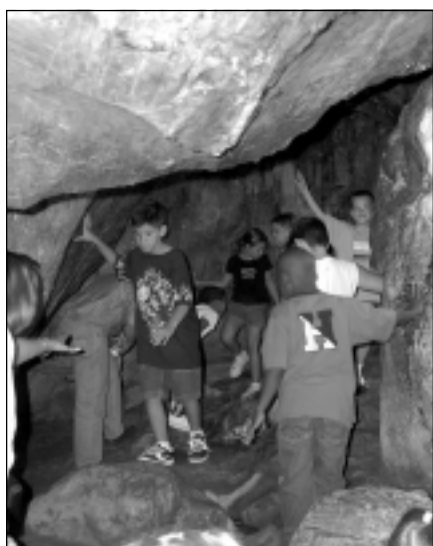
The trip ended with a cool, misty sack lunch alongside the Tarsus Waterfall, a waterfall that is increasingly rushing this time of year from the melting mountain snow.

"I liked looking at the waterfalls and the water splashing on my face," said second grader Kyle Wilson, 8.

Ms. Hogan takes her students on the Tarsus field trip every year because it's not only close to the base, but offers a great history and culture lesson.

"It's a very historical place," she said. "The things we learned and saw today were not just tales, it was the real thing."

"I love watching the excitement on the kids' faces when we get off base and out of the classroom," Ms. Hogan said. "They were looking forward to this trip for weeks."



**Second grade students get the opportunity to climb around Seven Sleepers' Cave during the field trip.**

## Summer heat brings health concerns

**By Tech. Sgt. Bob Blauser**  
*Operation Northern Watch Combined  
Information Bureau*

Although the cleanliness of tent city is important for the health and welfare of troops living there any time during the year, the inevitable heat of the fast approaching summer months makes it even more pertinent.

Because insects like flies and mosquitoes are more prevalent during hot weather, it's crucial to eliminate things that attract them, according to Staff Sgt. Mary Preolette, a Public Health technician deployed from Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Trash is the biggest problem, she said, because it attracts flies. The flies act as secondary vectors, which means they land on trash and then they land on food or something else touched with hands. Flies also carry diarrhea-causing bacteria.

"That's normally how you get sick," she said. "Nine times out of 10, it's because of the flies. The more trash you keep around your area, the more flies you're going to have."

According to Incirlik Air Base



**Staff Sgt. Mary Preolette performs a sanitation inspection of tent city. Unwashed utensils have the potential to attract bacteria-carrying flies.**



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Bob Blauser

**Trash cans like this one in tent city can attract flies, which act as secondary bacteria-carrying vectors. Standing water that accumulates in trash cans provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes.**

Instruction 32-6007, Hodja Village Management, all trash cans in tent city must be emptied daily and have lids.

But during weekly Public Health inspections of tent city, full, uncovered trash cans normally top the list of infractions, according to Senior Airman Michael Agnew, a Public Health technician deployed from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

To remedy the problem, Public Health recommends that residents make sure trash cans are emptied every day.

"People have to take responsibility," Staff Sgt. Preolette said. "The thing you have to ask yourself is, 'Do you live like this at your house?' If you don't, then why are you doing it in tent city?"

Warm weather means more barbecuing, which demands other good housekeeping practices, like washing dishes immediately, limiting the amount of time food sits out and cleaning grills and utensils after, use which can limit flies, according to Staff Sgt. Preolette. Frequent hand washing or using a hand sanitizer is also recommended.

Feeding cats is another area of concern Public Health notices during

inspections, Senior Airman Agnew said.

Just like trash, leaving food or bowls of milk around tents for the cats to eat can attract flies, he said. Also, if cats are being fed in tent city, chances are they're defecating in tent city, which ultimately attracts more flies.

Furthermore, since cats have the potential to carry rabies or cat scratch fever, Staff Sgt. Preolette said tent city residents should just avoid them altogether.

Mosquitoes are another summertime nuisance, but their presence can be somewhat controlled by eliminating the standing water in which they breed.

Tent city residents who notice standing water (other than drainage ditches) can call the Civil Engineer Help Desk at 6-8188 to have it remedied.

For general tent city Public Health questions or concerns, contact Staff Sgt. Preolette or Senior Airman Agnew at 6-6124.

Public Health questions or concerns about tent city latrines or laundry facilities can be directed to Mr. Edip Kabaharnup at 6-8013.

## This Week

### Today

**ACE hosts coffee house** - Airmen Committed to Excellence members serve coffee at the Crossroads Café from 6 to 11 p.m. The council needs volunteer servers and food donations. For more information, call Senior Airman Tomika Bazemore at 6-6847 or Airman Yasmine Red at 6-3606.

### Saturday

**Black and White Ball** - The Mt. Ararat Military Lodge No. 36 hosts a Black and White Ball at 6 p.m. at the Turkish Gazino Club. The social event features food, door prizes and dancing. Tickets cost \$15 and dress is semiformal. For more information, call Senior Airmen Quinton Holoway at 6-5340 or 6-6612.

### Monday

**Eagle Scout award** - Everyone is invited to witness Ben Christensen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nyle Christensen, be awarded the Eagle Scout Award at the Consolidated Club Complex at 5 p.m. This is the highest award in the Boy Scout program. Call Mrs. Christensen at 6-3299 for more information.

**Fellowship dinner** - The Protestant Woman of the Chapel invite all Incirlik women to a fellowship dinner at the Crossroads Café beginning at 5:30 p.m. Chaplains Cassandra Thomas and Thomas Will speak at the event. Call Jackie Trammell at 6-2452 for more information.

### Tuesday

**Disney on Parade** - The Incirlik High School Music Department presents

"Disney on Parade" at 7 p.m. at the high school gym. Performances include the beginning and advanced bands, the 100-student show choir. The community is invited. Call the school 6-6330 for more information.

**Sensible weight** - The Health and Wellness Center offers a sensible weight class at 2 p.m. at the center. The program is a scientifically based protocol designed to prevent weight gain and facilitate weight loss and maintenance of lost weight. Call 6-8256 for more information.

**Tobacco cessation** - The Health and Wellness Center offers a tobacco cessation class at 5 p.m. at the center. The 4-week course is designed to help people quit tobacco products and attendance at all 4 meetings is required. Call the center at 6-8256 for more information.

**Newcomers' overview** - The Family Support Centers offers Newcomers' Financial & Consumer Overview every Thursday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. The program covers a wide range of consumer tips specific to Turkey and general information to help with personal financial management. This class is mandatory for E1-E5 and highly recommended for all who are new to Incirlik.

### Thursday

The Family Support Center offers a Stress Management Class at 10 a.m. at the center. Discussion include methods of controlling, eliminating and properly utilizing stress. Call the center at 6-6755 for more information.

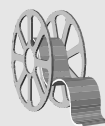
## Things to do

### May 24

**Immigration visa petitions** - Officials from the U.S. Embassy and Consulate will be at the Family Support Center to accept Immigration Visa Petitions from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Applicants must schedule an appointment and have completed form I130. Processing fee is \$130. Call the FSC at 6-6755 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

### School news

**Kindergarten pre-registration** - Parents of children entering kindergarten next year need to complete a registration package at the elementary school. Kindergarten students must be five years old by Oct. 31 to enter kindergarten. Call Mr. Yuksel Tireng at 6-3109 for information and required registration documents.



## Now showing

The base theater is scheduled to show the following movies today through Thursday:

**Cross Roads** (PG-13) - Starring Britney Spears and Anson Mount. Lucy and Mimi, after eight years apart, rediscover their friendship on a cross-country road trip. (94 minutes)

**John Q** (PG-13) - Starring Denzel Washington. When John Q Archibald's son Michael, falls seriously ill and needs an emergency heart transplant, he finds out his health insurance won't cover the bill and he vows to do whatever it takes to keep his son alive. (118 minutes)

**Return to Never Land** (G) - World War II is raging in the heart of London, and Wendy tries to comfort her young ones with stories of her experiences in Never Land. (72 minutes)

**The Rookie** (G) - Starring Dennis Quaid and Rachel Griffiths. The true story of a high school teacher and baseball coach who makes a deal with his team: if they make the playoffs, he'll try out for a pitcher position with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. (129 minutes)

**I Am Sam** (R) - Starring Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer. Sam Dawson has the mental capacity of a seven year old. He has a daughter with a homeless woman who abandons them as they leave the hospital. (132 minutes)

**Beautiful Mind** (R) - Starring Russel Crow and Ed Harris. It is 1974, and mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. made an astonishing discovery early in life and stood on the brink of international acclaim. (135 minutes)

**Roller Ball** (R) - Starring Chris Klein and LL Cool J. Jonathan is the most popular player in Roller ball. Along with his teammates, he's living the high life for giving viewers what they want. (100 minutes)

**Collateral Damage** (R) - Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Cliff Curtis. Firefighter Gordon Brewer is plunged into the complex and dangerous world of international terrorism after he loses his family in a bombing. (109 minutes)

**The Time Machine** (PG-13) - Starring Guy Pierce and Mark Addy. Alexander Hartdegen is determined to prove that travel time is possible. His determination is turned in to desperation that now drives him to change the past. (96 minutes)

For information on show times, call 6-6986. Viewers can also check the AFN schedule by logging onto [www.afntr.osd.mil/afnontv](http://www.afntr.osd.mil/afnontv)



## AF pays 100 percent tuition starting Oct. 1

WASHINGTON (AFPN)—Air Force people soon will benefit from a new Department of Defense tuition assistance policy that pays 100 percent of the cost of tuition for off-duty courses, according to Air Force education officials.

"The policy, effective Oct. 1, 2002, will pay tuition costs and mandatory fees for up to a maximum of \$250 per semester hour, or \$750 per 3-hour course," said Jim Sweizer, chief of the Air Force voluntary education branch at the Pentagon.

The policy also includes a \$4,500-per-year tuition assistance ceiling.

"In the past, we only paid instructional fees, such as a lab fee for science courses," Mr. Sweizer said. "Under the new policy, as long as the total cost falls under the authorized total, the student doesn't have to pay any money out of (his or her) pocket."

However, tuition assistance cannot

be used to pay for textbooks unless they are included in an academic institution's published tuition rates, he said.

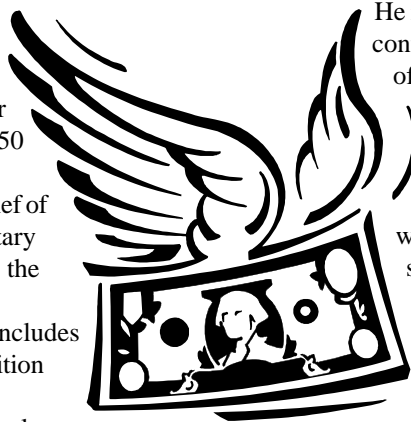
With 100 percent tuition assistance available to airmen, some people might opt to waive contributing to the Montgomery GI Bill, Mr. Sweizer said.

He recommends bluesuiters continue to take advantage of the benefits the GI Bill presents.

"Not everyone will be able to complete his or her education while on active duty," he said. "Having the MGIB as an alternative for later use is a wise investment."

The increase to 100 percent tuition assistance

was authorized by Congress two years ago, but was not funded until Fiscal Year 2003. The tuition assistance program is the same across the entire Defense Department. Each service had two years to develop a plan to make the programs work together.



## Sultan's Inn

### Saturday

**Lunch:** steak strips, Cajun meat loaf, and crispy-baked chicken

**Dinner:** pork chops with mushroom gravy, French fried fish portions and stir-fried chicken with broccoli

### Sunday

**Lunch:** sauerbraten, baked tuna and noodles and Parmesan chicken breast

**Dinner:** spinach lasagna, chicken Vega and fried catfish

### Monday

**Lunch:** Swiss steak with tomato sauce, baked chicken and simmered knockwurst

**Dinner:** baked ham, fish and chips and roast turkey

### Tuesday

**Lunch:** beef and spaghetti yakisoba, grilled Salisbury steak and onion-lemon baked fish

**Dinner:** paprika beef, barbecued beef cubes and pork chop suey

### Wednesday

**Ethnic lunch:** Mexican food

**Dinner:** country-style steaks, fried chicken and pita pizzas

### Thursday

**Lunch:** braised liver with onions, tempura fried fish and orange-spiced pork chops

**Dinner:** pepper steak, ginger pot roast, and Mr. Zs finger licking chicken

### Friday

**Lunch:** beef and corn pie, baked fish, and veal paprika steaks

**Dinner:** yankee pot roast, simmered corned beef and pineapple chicken

## Classified Ads

*Ads run for two weeks and then must be resubmitted. Ads can be faxed to 6-6492 or e-mailed to tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil. Ads must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication.*

*People who want to advertise yard or garage sales must go through the services squadron non-appropriated funds office for an approval letter before submitting an ad. People must show proof of the letter to the public affairs office before the ad will be published. For more information, call public affairs at 6-6060.*

For sale: **1999 Ford Mustang Anniversary Edition;**

includes stick shift, Radio, Cass, CD, A/C, power locks, and power drivers seat, 42,000 miles. Great condition. Must sell as soon as possible. Also for sale: **3/4 ct. diamond anniversary band** from Zales Jewelers with paper work; **\$800: wedding dress** from David's Bridal, dry cleaned and pressed; paid \$800, asking \$400 or best offer: Impex home **weight gym** must sell as soon as possible; \$800 or best offer. Please call 6-2322 for more information between 10am and 9pm, or leave message.

For sale: **scuba gear**, two 80 cubic foot tanks with K valves (hydro current), U.S. Divers Conshelf 21 Regulator

with octopus and analog gages, large 7MM two piece terry cloth lined wetsuit, Parkway buoyancy control device and a weight belt with approximately 35 Lbs of weight and a backpack gear bag; \$600: exercise **stair stepper**; \$30: blue **carpet** for two bedroom housing unit \$150.

For sale: **Treadmill** in very good condition; \$75. Please leave a message at 6-5132.

Wanted: City Colleges of Chicago is seeking a full-time **field representative**. Applications are available at the education center located in Bldg. 833. Call 6-6046 for more information.

Wanted: looking to buy a **used car**. Willing to pay \$1,500 or less depending on the condition. Please contact Jim or April at 6-2466.

Wanted: Complete set of **golf clubs**. Will take them off your hands cheap. Call 6-5867.

Free to good home: one-year-old, large, **mixed-breed dog**. Gentle and playful, very good with kids. Can be an outdoor dog too. PSCing sson. Call Ron or Michelle 6-2111.

Free: **bedroom set**; includes a headboard and two dressers, one with a mirror. Needs some repairs. For more information, call Mimi at 6-5351.



Photos by Senior Airman Dennis Henry

(Above) AMMO's Bert Chew goes up for a hit Wednesday during the intramural volleyball championship game at the fitness center. (Right) The 494th Fighter Squadron Panthers' Rick Goodman hammers the ball.



## Panthers swipe volleyball trophy

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Tredway

*39th Wing Public Affairs*

The 494th Fighter Squadron Panthers, deployed to Incirlik from Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, swept the 39th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight 26-24 and 25-23 to swipe the intramural volleyball trophy Wednesday at the fitness center.

Late in the second game, the Panthers battled back from a six-point deficit to take a 24-23 lead, then Rick Goodman hammered the ball into the gym floor for the victory.

The Panthers almost gave away the first game, allowing AMMO to come back from an eight-point deficit to take a 24-23 lead, but scored the final three points to hold on for the victory.

AMMO player and coach Brenda Pankratz said the team played well, but their passes killed them.

"I feel we had a very strong team this year," she said. "I think we played well together and learned from each other. I think the season went great. The gym staff was on top of things and always had teams scheduled on time. For the most part the league was even as far as talent."

## Sports Shorts

### Bike rodeo

The 39th Wing hosts its annual 39th Wing Bike Rodeo Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the high school parking lot. The rodeo includes an obstacle course. For more information, call the wing safety office at 6-SAFE.

### Golf tournament

The Hodja Lakes Golf Course holds an Armed Forces Day golf tournament Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. Cost is \$20 per team. This is a two-person select shot with one E-6 or above and one E-5 or below/two-hole throw out. Retirees are wel-

come. For more information, call the course at 6-8995.

### Lunch time volleyball

The fitness center will hold "5 on 5" lunch time volleyball Monday through May 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the center. For more information, call 6-3630.

### Billiards and table tennis

The community activities center hosts billiards and table tennis tournaments today and May 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the center. Cost is \$5 per person for each event. These are preliminaries to the Tournament

of Champions playoffs. The Tournament of Champions is scheduled for May 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, stop by the center or call 6-6966.

### 10K fun run

The Royal Air Force hosts a 10K Fun Run June 1. Participants will receive a commemorative T shirt and winners of the best fancy dress receive a prize. Everyone is invited to participate. An entrance fee is required and all funds raised are donated to sports relief and to local charities. For more information, call Al Rampling or Michelle Seddon at 6-8441.



**Mr. Birbiri**

If you have a question about anything Turkish, ask Mehmet.

Want to know about Turkish food? Ask Mehmet.

Have a question about Turkish customs? Ask Mehmet.

Want to know the ranks on

Turkish uniforms? Ask Mehmet.

Mehmet Birbiri, the Community Relations advisor in the 39th Wing Public Affairs office at Incirlik has the answers.

To ask Mehmet a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail him at mehmet.birbiri @incirlik.af.mil.

## Turkish Youth and Sports Day

Turkey celebrates Ataturk's Memorial, Youth and Sports Day Sunday.

This special day is the 83rd anniversary of when the country's War of Independence was ignited.

Mustafa Kemal founded the Republic of Turkey on the ashes of a collapsed empire and started civil reforms to westernize and modernize the newly founded republic.

One of the civil reforms he initiated was the adoption of last names. The Grand National Assembly gave him the name Ataturk, which means father of Turks.

While his new identification card was being prepared, Ataturk was asked his birth date and he said, "You can write May 19 as my birthday." Ataturk chose May 19 because it was the birthday of the Republic of Turkey.

The Ottoman Empire was on the losing side during World War I. In accordance with the treaty signed at the end of the war, the Turks were disarmed and the land of the Ottoman Empire was divided and occupied by the victorious forces.

The strategic straights, Bosphorus in Istanbul and Dardannels in Canakkale, connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, were occupied by England. Russians occupied eastern Turkey, Italians took the Antalya region, the French took southern and southeastern Turkey, including Adana,

and the Greeks occupied the Aegean region, including Izmir.

Ataturk, the hero of Gallipoli, couldn't sit and watch his country be occupied. He decided to go to Anatolia to ignite a War of Independence.

He and 18 friends boarded the ship "Bandirma" and secretly set sail towards Samsun from Istanbul. Ataturk arrived in Samsun May 19, 1919 and began the struggle for independence.

After driving the occupying forces out of Turkey and founding the Republic, Ataturk, who had a great belief in youth, dedicated the day to the Republic's youth.

In his address to them he said, "Turkish youth... your first duty is to preserve and defend forever Turkish independence and the Turkish Republic. This is the only foundation for your existence and your future. The principle is your most valuable source of strength. In the future, too, there will be enemies in your homeland and abroad who will try to deprive you of this."

Ataturk said that one day the youth would be compelled to defend their independence and the Republic, and they should not hesitate to perform their duty with whatever possibilities and circumstances may present themselves.

"The circumstances may be extremely unfavorable," Ataturk said. "It may be that the enemies who nurture designs on your independence and Republic have won a victory unprecedented in the history of the world.

Ataturk said that by force and by deceit, all the fortresses and shipyards of the sacred homeland may be seized and all her armies dispersed with every corner of the homeland invaded.

"What is more tragic and awesome than these eventualities," he said, "is those in power in your country may have fallen in ignorance and error. "Moreover, those in power may identify their personal interests with the occupying enemy's political goals. The nation may have fallen into complete destitution, into the most extreme distress.

When addressing the Turkish youth of the future, Ataturk said, "Even under



**Mustafa Kemal Ataturk founded the Grand National Assembly April 23, 1920 and the Republic of Turkey was declared Oct. 29, 1923.**

these conditions your duty is to save the Turkish independence and the republic. The strength you need for this is already present in your noble blood that flows through your veins."

In memory of Ataturk's declaration, young athletes carry soil and a Turkish flag from Samsun to the border of the province toward Ankara on May 19. Each athlete carries the soil to the next province's border. The soil and flag arrive in Ankara in time to be forwarded to the president during ceremonies held there.

Adana hosts ceremonies which include music, a gymnastic show and colorful parades at Adana stadium, which start at 9 a.m. The Ankara and Istanbul ceremonies are broadcasted live on Turkish TV and Radio stations.

## In Turkish

**Ulusal - national**  
(ou-lou-sahl)

**Genclik - youth**  
(gehn-ch-lick)

**Spor - sport**  
(Spor)